be enrolled in the District Courts and the High Court might be selected after a competitive examination. Second Grade Pleaders should also be appointed as Police and Excise Inspectors, Prosecuting Inspectors, Range Officers, Sub-Registrars, Second Class Magistrates and Munsiffs. The existing system of recruitment of officers to these posts was not at all statisfactory.

The system of indirect taxation was ruinous to the people. The system of tolls and market collections was detrimental to the agricultural, commercial and industrial progress of the State and should be abolished.

The existing system of affording medical relief was not satisfactory. A large number of medical officers were unnecessarily retained at the capital and some important towns. More hospitals and dispensaries should be established in rural areas so that there might be at least one dispensary for every 5 square miles and one hospital for every 25 square miles.

Under trial prisoners as well as those convicted for short terms, were being fed at the cost of the people. This system was unsatisfactory. The prisoners should be compelled to engage themselves in industries like hand-spinning and weaving or in manual labour inside the jail premises.

The practice of inflicting capital punishment should be abolished. It was a crude and barbarous method of administering justice. It was undesirable to make any invidious distinction in the matter of administration of criminal justice. The Criminal Procedure Code should be suitably amended so as to remove the existing distinction between European and Indian offenders.

The proposed resettlement should not be conducted in the near future.

The member lastly urged the necessity for establishing a university for Travancore. The State occupied the front rank in the matter of educational advancement in the Indian Empire. There were a large number of high schools and sufficient number of colleges. The starting of a separate university for Travancore should not be delayed any further. The best site for locating it was the capital of the State. The university buildings could be located either at the beach or at Tirumali.

DEWAN'S REPLY: You have made a large number of suggestions, Mr. Janardanan Nayar; and I cannot comment on all of them. All I can say is that they will be considered as occasion arises.

182. Administrative reforms.

MR. NAMBAN PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanapuram taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for adopting immediate measures for the uplift of the depressed classes. There were provisions for the registry of *puduval* lands on concessional terms to the members of the depressed classes. But there was no arrangement to see how far he members of the depressed classes were actually benefited by such

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concessions. The economic condition of the depressed classes was quite deplorable and they were quite backward in education. The few educated men among them were not encouraged in public service. A full-time Protector of the Depressed Classes should be appointed to suggest measures for their elevation and remedying their grievances. He should also have proper staff in each Division and in each taluk.

The people suffered greatly for want of land, both for habitation and for cultivation. The *taravila* realised on *puduval* lands was so excessive that many poor people had to abandon lands on which they had effected valuable improvements, being unable to pay the *taravila* fixed on the same. There was also no uniformity in fixing the *taravila*; different rates were fixed for different plots of land in the same Survey Number according to the whims and fancies of the officer who dealt with each case. The people were not given the right over the royal trees such as teak and ebony standing on registered lands. This was a source of annoyance to the people. The subordinates of the Forest Department often concocted cases of illicit felling and removal of royal trees. It was inequitable that the landholder who had paid a reasonable amount under *taravila* and *tadivila* and regularly paid the tax on the land, should have no right whatsoever on the royal trees standing on the land. The full rights over such trees should be conferred on the landholders and in the case of lands to be registered in future, a reasonable *tadivila* might be realised for the royal trees also, before registry.

The Quilon and Shencotta Forest Divisions should be amalgamated and placed under one Divisional Forest Officer and his headquarters located at Punalur, which was a central place. This would enable the Government to effect a substantial reduction in expenditure.

The member next urged the need for establishing more hospitals and dispensaries for women and children. There were only two or three such institutions in the State and hence all the women did not get proper medical relief. Special institutions for the treatment of women should therefore be opened in the headquarters of all taluks, or in the alternative, lady doctors should be appointed in all the District Hospitals in the State.

Hindi should be made a compulsory subject of study in schools and Urdu an optional subject. The member also suggested the desirability of appointing as *Munshies* persons well versed in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu and Arabic so as to avoid the necessity of appointing separate men for teaching each of these subjects.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishna Pillai, as I have already said, and as you know, various concessions are being given to the depressed classes. It was decided to appoint a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes; but, unfortunately, this cannot be done at present. It must wait until finances improve.

The question of royal trees has been settled; and a final reply was given at the last session. Complete surrender of Government's rights

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cannot be made. The Committee's report has been considered, and orders on it are being issued.

The question of amalgamating the Quilon and Shencotta Forest Divisions was examined, and it was found that the amalgamation would benefit neither the Department nor the people. Punalur is not suitable for being the headquarters; the area is too extensive and the combined charge over the present two Divisions would be too heavy for one officer.

We would like to see lady doctors in all towns; and the question of extending the women's medical service is being considered. It cannot be done quickly. We have to do it gradually.

Urdu is already included as an optional subject for the Arabic Munshi's Examination; and, in the revised English School Leaving Certificate Examination Scheme, Hindi is one of the optional subjects and a second language in English schools.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M and met again at 3 P. M.

183. Grievances of the cardamom ryots.

Mr. C. A. ABDUL RAHIM (*Peermade taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for reducing the tax on cardamom lands from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per acre. The world wide economic depression had not spared the cardamom ryots. There was unprecedented fall in the price of cardamom and many cardamom estates were worked at a great loss. Failure of timely rains also contributed not a little to the loss. Large tracts of cardamom areas were allowed to lie waste as it was not possible to get full compensation for the work done, due to the heavy tax, low prices and poor yield. The rubber cultivators were allowed a reduction of land tax on the ground of fall in the price of rubber. Tea planters were comparatively in a favourable position as the tax on tea lands was only Re. 1 per acre. Besides the disabilities mentioned above, the cardamom ryots were subjected to much hardship on account of the coercive steps taken in collecting the amounts due under tax at each instalment. This was hard. Early orders should therefore be issued to suspend coercive steps for recovery of tax due on cardamom lands till the date for payment of the final instalment.

The cardamom ryots experienced serious difficulties in procuring house-sites. The rules for the registry of grass lands were so rigorous that it was not easy to get house-sites registered. Arrangements should therefore be made for the assignment of house-sites to cardamom ryots on easy terms for the beneficial enjoyment of the cardamom lands.

Licenses should be issued for the opening of salt depots and tobacco shops in all the frontier *chowkeys* as well as in all important centres of the Devicolam Division for the convenience of the ryots. The existing practice of issuing licenses for opening depots and shops for centres covering a radius of 10 miles was causing much inconvenience to the people, especially in view of the absence of easy means of communication.

A dispensary should be established at Vandanmettu at an early date. Vandanmettu and the neighbouring places were malaria

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